

REMARKS

The August 30, 2004 Official Action has been carefully reviewed. In light of the amendments presented herewith and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Existing claims 28 and 43 have been cancelled. The cancellation of these claims should not be construed as indicative of Applicants concurrence or acquiescence in the various rejections thereof as set forth in the August 30, 2004 Official Action, or otherwise as an abandonment of Applicants efforts to secure patent protection on the subject matter of those claims. To the contrary, Applicants vigorously dispute those grounds of rejection. Such arguments as Applicants have to advance in rebuttal, however, are being reserved for a continuing application, should one be filed.

This amendment is believed to clearly place claims 1-11, 13-17, 20-22, 25-27, 29-38, 41-42, 47-49 in condition for allowance.

In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, it is respectfully urged that the rejections set forth in the August 30, 2004 Official Action be withdrawn and that this application be passed to issue. In the event the Examiner is not persuaded as to the allowability of any claim, and it appears that any outstanding issues may be resolved through a telephone interview, the Examiner is

requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the
phone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL AND SKILLMAN
A Professional Corporation

By

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathleen D. Rigaut".

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